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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8131
INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0042
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 0890
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 7887
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV PRIORITY 0002
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0408
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2769
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0768
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 000476

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS AND IO/PSC (MROZINSKI)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/17/2018

TAGS: [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [KPKO](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: DARFUR HELICOPTERS: SRI LANKANS HOPE THEY CAN HELP

REF: COLOMBO 00459

Classified By: Ambassador Robert O. Blake, Jr. for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) Ambassador spoke on May 16 with Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa to seek an update on the Government of Sri Lanka's response to our request that Sri Lanka provide helicopters to support the UN-AU peacekeeping operation in Darfur (reftel). Rajapaksa said he had spoken with Air Force Commander Goonetilleke and asked him to take a hard look at what assets the Air Force might be able to spare. Rajapaksa said Sri Lanka is "trying to work out something, so that we can help." He indicated he hopes to have a more definitive response by Monday or Tuesday of next week. Ambassador expressed appreciation for Sri Lanka's efforts and again underlined the importance of the request.
BLAKE